Albany, March 26. 1828.

Dear Sir,

I have long been desirous of being numbered among your correspondents, - but have not been able to prevail upon myself to request your assistance in my Botanical pursuits until now, though assured by several of our mutual friends that it would readily be granted. If I have acted improperly, you must blame the delightful spring weather we have had for some days past, which by reminding me of the near approach of the season of flowers, made me desirous of beginning the study of them this year under as favorable auspices as possible; - a study the air which none can be more delightful at any time, and which to me will I hope be a source of pleasure, and facilitate the operation of time in reconciling me to my late irreparable loss.

I have for two years past paid great attention to Botany, and have been favored by the friendship of correspondence of several excellent Botanists within the State; and though I shall not henceforth be able to devote so great a portion of my time to this pursuit, as I have heretofore done, yet I hope to be able to furnish you with some information, at any rate as regards localities that may be interesting to you.

I have found most difficulty with the grasses, and Carices

and should be much obliged to you if you could send me a few (the most common will not be the least acceptable) labelled, - so that I may have a starting point whence to push my investigations into this, rather uninviting branch of Botany.

May I ask, why the Genus Pinguicula, is omitted in your Flora & Compendium, - and why Cuscila Glabella, and Gaultheria hispidula are not mentioned in the latter?

When may botanists expect to be gratified in the publication of the second vol. of your Flora?

If you would point out a way, I should be very glad to send for your inspection some of our Albany Plants.

I remain
With sincere respect
Yours &c
George W. Clinton.

Dr. John Torrey.

G. W. Clinton,

March 26th, 1828 -

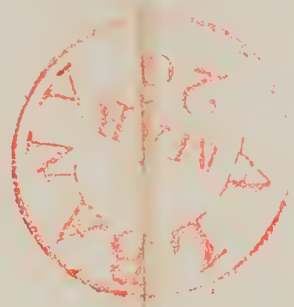
Recd March 30th

and I sent a packet of
Zeotic Cancer

Hon. Geo. C. Verplanck.

Chy. Chm. Treasy.

92/



Albany, April 11. 1858.

Dear Sir;

I am much obliged to you for your excellent present of Exotic Carices;- and, from what I have seen of them, and my recollection of the few I have collected, did they not come from you, would promise myself much pleasure in reconciling some of them with American species which are now known by different names. I am sorry that I cannot make such a return as I could wish. Having been absent from Albany last Spring, I missed altogether Schenchzeria palustris, Kalmia glauca and Erythronium albidum: In June however I secured a few specimens of the Kalmia glauca in seed, the last of which, with some Erythroniums I obtained from a friend, are enclosed in the package I send you. It will however soon be time for these plants, and I will then send you a supply. I have never visited the locality of Bidens Beckii, and Hippuris vulgaris, but shall endeavor to when they are in season for collection.

As I cannot know what ones of our plants would be considered rare by you, I have but in few instances put up more than two of the same species. If in looking over them you should find any of which you would desire a number of specimens, they shall be forwarded immediately if in my possession - if not, as soon as I can obtain them. You will observe on a number of my labels - queries: By reducing these doubts to certainties, - by informing me of my mistakes in labelling, and by filling up the blanks I have left, you will confer a great favor upon me.

As I am now separated from my Herbarium for some time, I must defer sending you the few Carices and Asters, and some grasses I have collected, as I must depend upon you for their names, - and can I suppose only obtain them only by affixing the same numbers to those in my collection and those I send you, and receiving their titles annexed to their respective numbers.

Among other plants, of which I have not now specimens to furnish you with, the more remarkable are Heteranthera reniformis, Utricularia gibba, Bartonia paniculata, [illegible], Equisetum limosum, Galium lanceolatum, Scirpus virginianus, Panicum hispidum, Potentilla confertiflora, Jimia cuculata, Brachyelytrum aristatum, [illegible], Glycaria acutiflora, Piptatherum nigrum & Schwallea americana. Of this last I have as yet found but one single plant. Hibiscus trionum grows pretty abundantly, below Greenbush, on the East side of the River, on the gravelly shore, in company with Antirrhinum elatine.

In May last I found a large flowered Prunus on the shore at Hoboken, which agrees best with P. nigra: But, I am not perfectly satisfied as to its identity with that species.

I should as a general rule prefer our plants to those of any other country. For the purposes of comparison I should occasionally however prefer a single European plant to many American species though utterly unknown to me. Thus a specimen of Pepis portula would be more agreeable to me than almost any of our own vegetable productions, because I should like to see it on the same paper with Crypta minima. If you could send me occasional duplicates and triplicates &c, - you would enable me to increase my stock by exchanges with western Botanists.

Mr. David Thomas of Greatfield, Cayuga Co., I believe an accurate botanist, and a zealous and successful cultivator of our indigenous flowers, assures me that Collinsia verna is a biennial flowering in May. Phlox divaricata and P. subulata, according

to the same gentlemen are suffruticose.

Is the expression "flowers diœcious" equivalent to "monœcious"? What is meant by "nectaries collateral"?

I wish you would notice particularly the Astragalus I sent you, as I feel extremely doubtful as to the species. On the rich bottom lands about 2 miles above Albany on the River Bank, it is perfectly erect, whereas on the islands near Troy it is low and much branched as I am informed.

I remain, Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

George W. Clinton.

P.S. I send you a package of plants this morning by the Constitution - of the Hudson River line.

Dr. Torrey.

New York

J. W. Clinton
Apr. 14th 1828.

Hon. John Tenney.
Albany
N.Y.

Buffalo, May 28 1862.

My dear Sir:

Very many things, and mostly of a disagreeable or trying nature, have conspired to prevent my writing to you until now, since the receipt of your last favor.

To have a Monographic of the Lebiteinia by your hand, properly illustrated, would gratify one of the most ardent wishes of my heart. Were my brothers still living I think the expense of plates would not be permitted to stand in the way of the execution of the work. As for me, I am poorer than a church mouse.

The Bo. Soc. of Nat. Sciences, the short list of whose Honorary Members you head, is now well at work. That is, its active members are all, as much as possible, afield.

For myself, I give to it all the time I can spare from official and other duties. It is a source of great pleasure to me to explore the woods, the fields, the waters, once more, with an object. Every excursion returns to me some old friend. Within a few days, I have found the Polemonium reptans & Trillium erythrocarpum - plants which, I think, I have not seen since 1826. The Floerkea I find in a damp wood, among nettles &c. From the books I had inferred that it grew in water.

A week or more ago, in a dry piece of woods, on a limestone soil, within ~~an space~~ a 6 long of say 30 feet by 6, I found 25-30 specimens of a plant, of which I ~~said~~ inclose spec 3. It looked pretty, each simple stem tipped with its minute white flower. I examined it as thoroughly as I could with an ordinary pocket mag=

specimen, and concluded that it was one of the Boraginaceae. It has, to my unpractised eye, the look of a lithospermum. It was not mature enough to enable me to determine the genus. I left some of the plants growing & shall soon revisit the locality. I could not find anything like it, any where else in the wood. I have a slight suspicion that the plant may grow to a larger size & branch. By letting me what it is you will much oblige me.

You have not yet fulfilled your promise to furnish me with a plan of your herbarium. To have it soon would be of much service to us.

Very Respectfully Yours,

G. W. Clinton.

Dr John Torrey.

Buffalo, Oct. 15, 1862.

Dear Sir:

We have collected more than 500 species of plants, excluding the Fungaceae, Lycopodiaceae, Hepaticae & Cryptogamia: and have added somewhat to the Flora of the State. The desire to commence, as soon as practicable, the arrangement of them in a herbarium, but have not yet settled upon the plan of one. Several months ago you promised us the plan of your herbarium: If not inconvenient to you we will be very glad to receive it.

Yours respectfully

G. W. Clinton.

Dr John Torrey.

Buffalo, Sept. 5, 1863.

Dear Sir:

My attention has, within a few days, been called to your letter to Mr. Slade, on the Corr. Sec'y, acknowledging the receipt of one from him informing you of your election as Honorary Member of the Buffalo Soc. of Nat. Sciences; & I observe that, in your letter, you express a desire to receive such information as the Society may be able to furnish touching our Flora. I am confident that

my attention had not been called to this before. We are desirous of doing all in our power to gratify your wishes. Knowing the pressure of your engagements, public & private, we did not feel at liberty to call upon you to aid us in the determination of plants: ~~But~~ And we appealed to & have received every assistance that we could desire from Prof. Gray, and, in the Garden, from Prof. Sewey.

We commenced our exploration last year, & collected between 800 gen. species: But, at the close of the year, we decided to abandon our intention

of publishing a preliminary Catalogue of our Flora. This season we have added considerably to our discoveries, and will be able, in the winter, to prepare a nearly perfect catalogue.

In the meantime, if you desire it, I will send you a manuscript list of our plants so far as discovered & determined. We have added a few species to our State Flora.

Yours respy

W. W. Ellis.

Dr John Torrey.

Buffalo March 2. 64.

My dear Sir:

I rec^d your favor of the 24th ult^o yesterday morning, on my return from Albany, and am obliged to answer very briefly.

Thanks for your consenting to look at the Asters. There are but two that I am seriously troubled about. One Gray positively declined passing upon - and the other he suggested might be a state of A. prenanthoides. My impression is that it is the prenanthoides of T. & G. - and that what ordinarily passes for that species - the humble, straggling, zig-zag, fellow - is distinct. This fellow is 3 - 5 feet. I am sure one I saw was as tall as I, though I did not go up to it to measure - and as erect as a

drum-major.

I am much grieved about Mr. Austin's matter. He has taken an entirely too extended view of the nature of his employment. I had a conversation with him, in the State Engineer's Room, while he was at work, and expressed to him my ~~wishes~~ objects, and what I expected him to do. Supposing that he understood that I was speaking by authority. He could not have misunderstood me, but may not have understood that I had power to and was directing him. Dr Wadsworth showed me, at Albany, two long communications sent to him simultaneously by Mr Austin. If you go to Albany, I hope you will read them. Staff=

pears that he understood that the $100 paid him by Dr W. was part payment - that Dr W. understood that it was full payment for every thing that he was to do, except actual disbursements for paper, &c. Then, Mr Austin writes that his bill is $70 (I think that's the sum) & that, on receiving it, he will forward his work - making the receipt of payment a condition precedent. I need hardly say to you, that the whole matter, on Mr Austin's part, has, in my eyes, a very unfavorable appearance. Still, I am in favor of treating him liberally; and, ~~now~~ should I be satisfied that his conduct has originated entirely in misapprehension, and that he would hereafter obey orders, I should, if you recommend it, be in favor of permitting him to take part

in such work as we may find it necessary to do by-and-bye. But, as for substituting him for you, or permitting him to take the entire direction of the separation and perfecting of the herbarium, it is not to be thought of for an instant. His idea seems to be to make up a herbarium, of such plants as grow in the State, which shall perfect the State herbarium — and it seems, he cannot comprehend the difference.

The State herbarium, as it now is, and apart from your authentications, is, in my judgment, worth from $300 to $1000:— Perfected, and with your authentications, and connected with your report, it becomes, to the State especially, of inestimable value.

And here I may say, that, apart — perhaps the most important part of my plan — is, when the herbarium has received the accessions of the coming season, to induce you, if I can, for a due remuneration, to ~~supervise~~ examine & authenticate the collection anew: But this I

Buffalo, Nov. 17. 1866.

My dear Sir:

I hope to be able to show myself unto you, in New York, on Wednesday next, and to find you at leisure for my friendly persecutions.

I have resolved, this time, to buy paper, in New York, whereon whereunto to set up the herbarium of our Society. This will require from 4 to 6 M. species sheets, to say nothing of manilla wrappers. I shall want your advice & direction, as to where to buy. I shall also want to ~~escort~~ poke about in your herbarium, and ascertain your mode of cataloguing its contents, &c. &c.

Above all, I want to see you & to thank you for all your kindnesses. And then I do want to see your daughter, of whom I had a mere glimpse.

I must, of course, stay ~~at~~ with my daughter — Mrs Henry L. Clinton, at No. 19 Park Avenue. ~~Will~~ Please send a line to me, thither, informing me when & where I can see you with least inconvenience to yourself. I shall, probably, remain in New York only Wednesday & Thursday.

Yrs. truly respectfully

W. W. Clinton.

Dr John Torrey.

have not yet broached.

Yours,

Most truly respy

Your friend & Servt

G. M. Johnston.

Dr John Torrey.

Buffalo, Dec. 13, 1856.

My dear Sir:

I cant forget the nice evening I had with Mrs T., Mrs Barnard, Miss Henry & myself; and I do hope that you will allow me, should I visit New York this winter, such another pleasure. For fear your amiable daughter should think of shaking her head in the negative - please assure her that I am very sensible that somehow, contrary to my wont, I got a talking, & talked too much & too musedly, and that, if she will overlook it & let me come, I'll be very good indeed & be as still and quiet as I ought to be.

I am about to plunge into the work of our herbarium making.

I do anticipate pleasure & profit from this labor of love. But, I be=think me, alas! that I am old. I require spoon-meat. Where is my spoon, my good instructor? You'd better lay aside your domestic & collegiate duties, be deaf to the cares of office, doff aside the botany of the world, & eschew College, Wall Street, all things and places — Make that spoon! You'll have, I assure you, not a moment's quiet, until you have made it.

I am now anxious to become acquainted with our Southern botanists. I have written to Dr Chapman. (Does L. F. Austin go to him, in Denslow's place?) I want to get all their plants from them. Can you, & or rather, will you — help me?

Our Society is about despatch=

ing an instruction, Mr Charles Sudden, to Eastern Florida, to spend about 3 mos in collecting for it - especially the birds. Poor fellow - he has no smattering of botany! I wish I could go with him. It would do me good. The old tradition was correct - the fountain of youth is in Florida - & I, more fortunate than De Soto, (or whoever the poor fellow was, who vagabonded after gold to the Mississippi &c) I would find it.

I want the whole world to go botanizing. How can I persuade good Dr Humber to open his packages, &, as I told him he might - "go to grass!"

With my kindest respects to Mrs Torrey

Most truly & respy yours
G. W. Chilton.

Dr John Torrey -

Buffalo, Jan. 9. 1867.

My very dear Sir:-

Look out for your spores! - your botanical ones - for I contemplate a raid on Torrey's back room. I leave to-night for Albany, to attend the Regents' meeting to-morrow evening &c. - & if possible, will run down to New York, pay my respects to you & your family, and pocket that spore! I must put up at my daughter's, 19 Park Avenue - if she can put up with me.

I have just rec'd a very kind & pleasant letter from Prof. Chapman. But he writes that his age & infirmities keep him from the field. Ah me! We might

not to grow old! That's bad philosophy, I know.

Please give my kindest regards to the Miss Torreys, & to the Misses Torrey. (I am determined to have it right.) And believe me,

Ever truly & gratefully,
Your friend

W. W. Christie.

Dr John Torrey.

Buffalo, Dec. 30. 1868.

My dear & revered friend:

I do wish you and yours - & particularly your precious heart - a happy, very happy New Year.

As for me. I am in dumpishness. Much bother in big & small ways confuses me. I have not got the spunk of a magnanimous mouse.

In a few days, the last of my three girls will leave us. My four boys are scattered widely. Hymen knocks from under us our last prop. We console ourselves by saying - I & my wife to each other - "then you'll be my only incumbrance: and so we'll hug, & then go down the hill together, arm in arm.

It seems impossible almost to me that the good Providence will not make a way for me to ~~you~~ the enjoyment of your hospitality. Hope (confound her!) has told me many flattering tales: But she shall still console me.

As for the pocket - please express it!

I am glad that Dr Parry has accepted a position of so much usefulness, and, by no means, destitute of dignity.

My heart expenses towards Egypt - & has almost reached the Nile. It loves to hover around Gray - the hasty, kindly, genial Botanist & friend.

I envy Mr C. V. Le Roy - first for his access to yourself - second, for his access to your magnificent herb. - third, his contemplated exploration of Florida - fourth, for

his having what I have so longed to be able to do — "assisted" you. Remember me kindly to him. Anything I can do to help or cheer him he may rely on. Our little Society will cheerfully, I am sure, take $350 stock. But it will require a little time to raise it. Let me know as to the when & to whom to send it.

My love to all, especially to merry, heartsome, charming Margaret.

Yours wholly,

G. W. Clinton.

Dr John Torrey.

Clinton

Rec'd June 5th

Buffalo, June 3, 1869.

My very dear friend:

Please make my excuses to charming Miss Margaret. My spirits have been considerably below cypher ever since the receipt of the note from her which did me so much good - raised me almost out of the slough of despond. If I were not wholly destitute of proper paper, where I now am, I would essay to write to her. But I have to get ready for a trip to Albany to-night, & that may give me courage or joy. So, look out, Miss Margaret!

I have been, for some weary months, from time to time, expecting

to visit you, but, alas! something has always occurred to prevent it, and I now see no hope of my enjoying that pleasure.

Dr. Chas Mohr, of Mobile, Ala., the possessor of Riddell's Herbarium, ~~said~~ apparently a nice gentleman, & inclined to be an active botanist, sent me, early last winter I think, a package. Having the mistaken notion that I knew something, he appealed to me, in divers cases, to resolve his doubts. In a few plain cases, I ventured to do so: But in others, the questions must, of right, be submitted unto you.

I too have met with insuperable difficulties. I rec'd some snips from

Guiana - (they might better have been from Guinea -) and so I am, botanically speaking, in doubting Castle. Do release me, Great heart!

I express to you a small packet - containing the things Dr Wm & I doubt about. Please be real good for the 999,999,999,999th time in your life, look them over, name, & return by Express.

Ever, in the truest
Affection & Respect,
Yours
G. W. Clinton.

Dr John Torrey.

Plinio